

What's Trending in Child Nutrition

Speaker Bio's

Amanda Aldred RD, SNS

Amanda Aldred, RD, SNS - is a School Nutrition Specialist at New England Dairy & Food Council (NEDFC). NEDFC is the state and regional office of the National Dairy Council (NDC), managed by Dairy Management, Inc., a non-profit organization for U.S. produced dairy products on behalf of America's dairy farmers. Amanda is responsible for implementing Dairy Council's nutrition programs in Connecticut schools and executing local campaigns to increase the visibility of New England dairy products. Prior to this position Amanda was the Food Service Director for Naugatuck Public Schools. She is a member of the American Dietetic Association, the School Nutrition Association, and a graduate of the University of Connecticut's Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

Sarah Bourque

Sarah Bourque is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with a background in school wellness research. She currently serves as a Consultant at the State Education Resource Center, where she collaborates with the Connecticut State Department of Education to implement two (2) USDA Team Nutrition Grants. As part of her role, she promotes and provides training and technical assistance to schools applying for the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms. She also collaborates with other priority education initiatives to promote the connection between student health and academic achievement.

Fionnuala Brown, RD

Fionnuala Brown is a consultant at the Connecticut State Department of Education in the Child Nutrition Unit. She is a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor's Degree in Food and Nutrition. For the past six years, she has enjoyed working with schools across Connecticut providing training and technical assistance to ensure effective operation of Child Nutrition Programs (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program). Fionnuala also has been coordinating the Seamless Summer and the Summer Food Service Program; these programs offer meals when school is out. Fionnuala has over 15 years of experience working in the field of Child Nutrition. Prior to her current position, she worked as a consultant for Head Start Programs and healthcare facilities throughout Connecticut. She is the busy mother of three adorable girls and enjoys spending whatever free time she can find outdoors with her active family.

Caroline Cooke, RD

Caroline Cooke has joined the Connecticut State Department of Education in the past year as the Summer Meals Coordinator, bringing together oversight of the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program. Prior to joining the CSDE, Caroline was a Nutrition Consultant with the Connecticut Department of Public Health WIC Program. Between her work at the Department of Public Health and work in Local Agencies around the State, Caroline has 14 years of experience working for the Connecticut WIC Program. Caroline is bringing her knowledge of Federal nutrition programs and commitment to the health and development of children to her new role as Summer Meals Coordinator. Caroline is a Registered Dietitian with a strong interest in maternal and child nutrition.

Teri Dandeneau, MS, RD

Teri Dandeneau is a registered dietitian who is an Education Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs. Teri has worked for over thirty years in the field of school Child Nutrition starting as a food service manager in the Hartford Public School system and then becoming the food service director for Bloomfield Public Schools. She has been with the CSDE for the past sixteen years where she has been involved with all aspects of operating the school Child Nutrition Programs. Teri is a graduate from the University of Saint Joseph and has a Master's Degree in Communications from Central Connecticut State University.

Madeleine C. Diker, SNS

Madeleine has been the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for eleven years at Cheshire Public Schools and seven years at Wolcott Public Schools. Prior to working in school food services, Madeleine worked in food service management positions at Middlesex Hospital, St. Joseph's Convalescent and Nursing Home, Area Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meal Sites for the Elderly, as well as New York City Child Nutrition Programs.

Madeleine holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the Syracuse University. Madeleine currently is a Past President of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut and remains active with SNACT on the Education Committee. Madeleine has been involved with the *Start with Half a Cup Initiative* developing toolkits for Food Service Directors and teachers to encourage their students to eat vegetables.

Danielle Fleury

Danielle Fleury is the Farm to School Lead for the Food and Nutrition Service Northeast Regional Office based in Boston, MA. Danielle holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from The George Washington University in Washington, DC, and was previously involved in the development of statewide education and nutrition policy with the Massachusetts State Legislature.



John Frassinelli

John Frassinelli is the Chief of the Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education and serves as the State Director of Child Nutrition Programs at CSDE. He is a registered dietitian with a Master's Degree in Health Promotion, and Bachelor's Degrees in Political Science and Nutrition/Dietetics. Prior to arriving at CSDE in May of last year, John was the Director of the State WIC Program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. He currently serves on many health and nutrition advisory committees including as the Chair of the Connecticut Food Policy Council.

Linda Hubeny

Linda Hubeny joined the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services in 1988 as a computer operator trainee. Her career successes led to her promotion as Technical Support Supervisor in the agency's Management Information Solutions department. Linda was named Director of the Food Distribution Program in 2002. Since becoming Director, she has implemented USDA's Electronic Commodity Ordering System to the Recipient Agency level, introduced further processing, and the Department of Defense Fruit and Vegetable Program. She is active in several organizations that support child nutrition including, the School Nutrition Association, the American Commodity Distribution Association, End Hunger CT!, and the Connecticut Food Policy Council.

Susan Maffé, MS, RD, SNS

Susan has been the Director of Food Services for Meriden Public Schools since 2004. Prior to working in school food services, Susan worked for a Food Service Management Company in Colleges and Universities, for a major hospital in Hartford, CT as a Patient Services Manager, an Operations Manager and Clinical Nutrition Director. Susan has also served as the Assistant Director of Nutrition and Food Production for a Community Action Agency providing meals on wheels, congregate feeding for the elderly and meals to various Head Start Programs under the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Susan holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Connecticut and has also obtained a Master's Degree in Management from Rensselaer.

Susan currently is a Past President of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut and remains active as a member of SNACT's Executive Board. She is a Registered Dietitian and is credentialed as a School Nutrition Specialist with the School Nutrition Association.

Jackie Schipke

Jackie Schipke has been an Education Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education since 2009. In this position she oversees the School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program and conducts Administrative Reviews on school sponsors of USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Prior to this position Jackie was a school food service director in California and Connecticut, and briefly worked as a food broker calling on Connecticut school food service directors. The proud daughter of a "lunch lady," Jackie is a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelors in Nutritional Science and a Master of Business Administration, and is a Past-President of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut.

Lisa Wood

Lisa Wood is the Statewide Director of the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) for the state hosted by the South Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer). In this position, she supervises five Contracting Specialists who assist small businesses in contracting with government agencies and prime contractors at the federal, state and local level by providing training and guidance. The PTAP Team works closely with various federal and state agencies to further assist clients and local businesses in taking advantage of government contracting opportunities.

Wood holds a BSBA in Management from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh and is currently pursuing her Masters of Business Administration. Before joining the seCTer, Wood was the Statewide Director of the Ohio PTAC, Manager of Government Contracts for the Northwest Commission of Pennsylvania and a Contracting Officer for Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc. In these roles, Wood performed contract administration and negotiation duties. She also recommended bidders, handled issue inquiries, negotiated bids, performed cost and price analysis, and prepared comprehensive letters to justify recommended contract actions.

Lisa resides in Groton and is firm believer in the growth potential of Connecticut and is committed to helping businesses take advantage of government contracts.

Shannon Yearwood

Shannon Yearwood is the Connecticut No Kid Hungry Campaign Manager at End Hunger Connecticut!. Shannon has successfully spearheaded efforts to bring together state and local resources to fight hunger in every state through policy, advocacy, and collaboration. Her work with End Hunger Connecticut!'s child nutrition team focuses on the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Meals Programs, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program's At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program (aka; Supper Program). Shannon has expertise in public speaking, community organizing, policy analysis and consulting, lobbying, and state and administrative public policy and advocacy.